Water Security Division (WSD) Regional Conference Call
Draft Summary
February 19, 2014 1:30 – 3:00pm

Participants

Curt Baranowski, EPA WSD
Samuel Cohen, EPA WSD
Michael Dexter, EPA WSD
David Goldbloom-Helzner, EPA WSD
Laura Jenkins, EPA WSD
Bailey Kennett, EPA WSD
Latisha Mapp, EPA WSD
Stefanie Simpson, EPA WSD
Khin Cho Thaung, EPA WSD
Nushat Thomas, EPA WSD
Patricia Tidwell-Shelton, EPA WSD

Ex. 4 - CBI

Region 1 – Mark Sceery
Lynn Gilleland
Anita Thompkins
Arlene Anderson
Bruce Kiselica
Jerry McKenna
Region 3 – Victoria Binetti
Bill Arguto
Patti Kay Wisniewski
Chuck Schadel
Region 5 – Alicia Brown
Dean Moraldo
Jodie Opie
Region 6 – Dawn Ison
Region 7 – Ken Deason
Stan Calow
Mary Mindrup
Region 8 – Lisa Kahn
Michael Copeland

Discussion

Open Action Items

WSD

None

Regions

- Regions should provide Regional Call topic suggestions for 2014 to Khin Cho Thaung. Regions that respond to this request should send to all so that there isn't any duplication of effort. Additionally, please also send note when regions would be available for a Regional Spotlight and Highlight. *(Ongoing)*

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Standing Requests

Regions

- If you are interested in Community-Based Water Resiliency (CBWR) training, please contact Nushat Thomas.
- If you are interested in Climate Ready Water Utilities (CRWU) activities in your region, have questions about CRWU, or would like past CRWU webinar materials, please contact Curt Baranowski.
- If you are interested in attending workgroup meetings for the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-21 Cyber Security Executive Order, please contact Debbie Newberry.
- If regions are interested in learning more about WSD's cyber security efforts, please contact Nelson Mix or Dan Schmelling with any questions.

Overview of Emergency Response (ER)/Climate Ready Water Utilities (CRWU) workshops – Samuel Cohen, WSD

The CRWU team and the ER team are conducting joint regional workshops that engage drinking water and wastewater utilities to explore regional emergencies and climate change impacts. The goal is to conduct four workshops in different Regions around the country. The first workshop was held in Region 1 in Mattapoisett, MA. This workshop brought in neighboring utilities from Boston, state entities, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Army Corps of Engineers. The initial response to the exercise was positive and hopes that it helped to encourage participants to think more about their emergency response planning. Through further outreach in the Regions, Sam hopes to determine the final three Regions to hold workshops.

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Anyone who is interested in partnering with CRWU and ER is encouraged to contact Sam offline.

Team Leader Update: Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) – Latisha Mapp

The Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) was opened to membership in 2009 in response to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD-9). The WLA is a network of laboratories that takes an all-hazards approach to respond to intentional or accidental water contamination incidents. The WLA is currently comprised of 140 member laboratories (including utilities, state, federal and commercial

laboratories) across 48 states. Latisha explained that a unique feature of the WLA is that in order to become a member, laboratories must sign a basic ordering agreement (BOA). A BOA allows laboratories to acquire support when a response is needed in a matter of hours, as opposed to taking days or even weeks, without such an agreement in place.

Latisha noted that in November of 2013 the WLA Strategic Planning Session brought together stakeholders (representatives from utilities, laboratories, and states) to look at the next steps for the WLA. The four main topics the session focused on were:

1. Reassessing preparedness - what does it take to respond to a contamination event and what is the WLA missing
2. Prioritizing and enhancing WLA efforts - are there efforts that the WLA should disengage from, restart, or add
3. Measuring progress - how do you measure and capture success in a program that does not often get activated
4. Sustainability of the WLA - what does the WLA look like in the year 2020 and is it effective

The WLA Strategic Planning Session produced a list of areas that the WLA can improve upon. Latisha will send out this list next week and would like feedback and input on areas that are important to the Regions.

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Victoria Binetti (R3) stated that things were happening quickly and the analysis was very challenging. She noted the need to develop a validated method in very short order for something that is unknown.

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Update on Wyoming Rural Water Conference – Laura Jenkins and Lisa Kahn

In April, Laura Jenkins will be traveling with a group from Region 8 to the Wyoming Rural Water Conference. She will be participating in the spring training conference for small and rural utilities. Laura will be speaking about the various tools developed by WSD and focusing primarily on those tools and resources that will be of use to small and rural utilities. Lisa Kahn noted that several rule managers are sent to the conferences every year.

Laura mentioned that there is interest in doing a Community-Based Water Resiliency (CBWR) workshop in Wyoming, and she will pass along their contact information to Nushat Thomas.

If you would like any materials or information included in the presentation for small, rural utilities, send them to Laura and Lisa Kahn (R8).

Update on Hurricane Sandy Work - Jerry McKenna, R2

Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey and New York in late October of 2012. Throughout 2013 there were various after-action meetings and WSD trainings, including a Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) training, a CBWR workshop, a workshop on the water/energy nexus, introductory incident command system training, and group supervisor trainings. Jerry stated that they are currently collaborating with Region 3 on the Multi-Region Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) workshop. As part of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) there are six recovery support functions for federal assistance. These include community planning, capacity building, economic health, social services housing, infrastructure systems, and natural and cultural resources. The Army Corps of Engineers is the lead for water and wastewater infrastructure systems with support from EPA. A staff member has been working in the joint field office in Queens, New York and another staff member is at a field office in New Jersey.

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Lisa Kahn (R8) asked if a lot of the trainings Jerry mentioned were done after the recovery process of Hurricane Sandy. Jerry stated that they were and that this strengthened the trainings because they were able to add the discussion with lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy.

Lisa asked if the towns were interested in doing the planning after they already experienced a disaster. Nushat Thomas noted that, as part of the CBWR workshop, participants provide feedback after the training. Most participants indicate that they are interested in implementing a CBWR program in their community and the responses are very positive.

West Virginia Spill and Emergency Response –Bill Arguto, R3

The West Virginia chemical spill occurred on January 9, 2014 on the Elk River. The spill was about 1.5 miles upstream from a West Virginia American Water intake and the contaminant (a mixture of chemicals including 4-Methylcyclohexanemethanol [MCHM] and propylene glycol phenyl ether [PPH]), overwhelmed the ability of the drinking water plant to fully treat for the chemical. The water treatment plant has about 100,000 connections and 300,000 customers. The water distribution system had a large number of line breaks and pressure zones, feeding a wide area including Charleston, West Virginia. West Virginia American Water was not able to shut down the intake because the recovery time would have been much greater. A do not use order was issued that affected all 300,000 customers.

Over the course of several weeks, West Virginia American Water flushed the system to remove the chemical from the distribution lines. They also issued flushing procedures to customers to clear the contaminant from household plumbing. Samples were continually taken at various points in the distribution system, at one point reaching over 2,200 samples. The goal was to achieve a non-detect reading (10 parts per billion [ppb] of MCHM). At 10 ppb, the odor was still present and many households could still smell the chemical. CDC determined that a safe screening level would be 1 part per million (ppm).

Bill stated that the support from WSD and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) continues to be extremely helpful, especially with chemical degradation issues. West Virginia American Water, and its parent company American Water, also had a lot of expertise that proved to be helpful. CDC's ability to come up with a screening level in a short time was of great use. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources were the lead response agencies for the spill, with EPA acting in a supporting role. EPA continues to answer questions that have come out of the spill, including those from both state and federal government about response efforts.

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New Action Items

- **Ex. 5 - Deliberative**

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Next Call

The next WSD Regional conference call is scheduled for March 19, 2014.